

In the Claims:

1. (Original) A method for detecting the beginning of combustion in an internal combustion engine (1) comprising several cylinders (2, 3, 4, 5) by means of a rotation speed signal determined for a shaft (6) of the internal combustion engine (1), in which
- at least one segment signal (SS), whose signal length corresponds to an integral full rotation of the shaft (6), is extracted from the rotation speed signal, so that in the rotation angle range represented by the signal length each cylinder (2, 3, 4, 5) ignites one time,
  - a cylinder signal (ZS1, ZS2, ZS3, ZS4), which substantially reproduces the operational state in one of the cylinders (2, 3, 4, 5), is generated from the segment signal (SS),
  - the cylinder signal (ZS1, ZS2, ZS3, ZS4) is transformed into a cylinder frequency signal (FS 1, FS2, FS3, FS4) in an angle frequency range and
  - a signal information indicating the beginning of combustion in the associated cylinder (2, 3, 4, 5) is extracted from the cylinder frequency signal (FS 1, FS2, FS3, FS4) at at least one predefined angle frequency.

1 2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, **characterized in**  
2 **that** the cylinder signal (ZS1, ZS2, ZS3, ZS4) is generated  
3 by means of extraction of a partial signal from the segment  
4 signal (SS), the partial signal detecting the rotation  
5 angle range, within which the concerned cylinder (2, 3, 4,  
6 5) ignites.

1 3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, **characterized in**  
2 **that** the operational state in the cylinder (2), for which  
3 the beginning of combustion is to be detected, is the  
4 beginning of combustion is to be detected, is adjusted and  
5 in that the segment signal (SS) resulting from adjustment  
6 is used as a whole as the cylinder signal (ZS1) which is  
7 significant for this cylinder (2).

Claims 4 to 10 (Canceled).

[REMARKS FOLLOW ON NEXT PAGE]